

Amendments to the Specification:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, please delete the entire paragraph beginning on page 3 line 5 and ending at line 11 and replace it with the following paragraph, which indicates the requested changes:

The upper end 28 of second member 14 and a portion of the intermediate section 30 are slideably connected to first member 12, to allow the first member and second member to telescope outwardly with respect to one another, or to contract inwardly. This connection may be implemented, as shown in Figure 2, by slideably inserting the upper end 28 and some or all of the intermediate section 30 into the second end 26 of the first member 12. If the first member 12 and second member 14 are connected in this manner, inside diameter d_i must be larger than the outside diameter d_o of the second member.